



Getting to New Zealand

Pre-departure Information for US Graduate Students



Fulbright Graduate Student Awards: Information for US grantees

Introduction

Congratulations on being offered a Fulbright graduate student award to study in New Zealand. We hope that your experience in New Zealand will be an exciting and fulfilling one.

This handbook is designed to provide you with some useful information leading up to your arrival in New Zealand. However, any questions that arise will be happily answered by programme staff:

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Fulbright alumni buddy system

Where possible, you will be given contact information for an American Fulbright alumnus in your field of study, another who attended the same New Zealand university as you will, and a New Zealand alumnus living in the New Zealand city where you will be based. You are encouraged to make use of these contacts as they are excellent sources of practical information you will need.

Choosing a New Zealand university

Well before your arrival in New Zealand you should investigate your academic options as thoroughly as possible to ensure you have located the New Zealand university or other institution which best matches your academic interests and aspirations. While some US students have prior knowledge of and interest in working with a particular person or in a particular place, others may not have considered all other viable options. If you require any assistance in relation to your academic placement, you can discuss this with Fulbright New Zealand.

In general Auckland, Wellington, Christchurch and Dunedin are more expensive places to live.

If you plan to continue studying after your Fulbright grant expires, four New Zealand universities (Victoria University of Wellington, the University of Auckland, Massey University and the University of Otago) have scholarships available that can help cover the costs associated with subsequent years of study. These scholarships are mostly at masters level and are not all guaranteed to Fulbrighters – you need to apply. Also note that the terms of these scholarships vary between universities, and the scholarships may not cover the full tuition expenses for

subsequent years of study. You should contact the Scholarships Office at your New Zealand host university for details.

Organising admission/affiliation with a New Zealand host institution

The Programme Manager at Fulbright will send your Fulbright application to the New Zealand host institution you named in your application, and work with the International Students Office to arrange your formal admission/affiliation with the institution. During this process you may be asked to submit additional documents or to contact the host institution directly for a variety of reasons. If additional information is required from you, please supply it in a timely manner so that your placement can be confirmed as soon as possible. Your potential adviser at the institution may also be contacted during this process.

An affiliation with a host institution must be organised even if you are completing research toward a US degree.

DO NOT pay any money to your New Zealand host institution. If you receive an Offer/Admission Letter indicating that a tuition deposit is due, remind the institution that Fulbright will be paying your fees, and we will submit payment upon receipt of an invoice after you have arrived in New Zealand and completed the enrolment process.

Determining your arrival date

Fulbright graduate students are not expected to arrive in New Zealand before 15 January unless you are planning a vacation. This is because of the “Great New Zealand Shut Down” which occurs over the main summer holiday period. Universities are closed and there is a great exodus of people from the main centres to a suitable holiday location. In other words, it is difficult and on some days even impossible to accomplish anything administrative (open a bank account, enrol at university, etc.) during the holiday period.

Your stipend will not begin until 1 February, unless you have negotiated an earlier date with Fulbright New Zealand in accordance with the Terms and Conditions of your grant.

You are required to attend the Fulbright New Zealand orientation programme. Orientation 2014 is scheduled for **Monday 3 February 2014 through Friday 7 February 2014** so you must plan on arriving at least before then. University classes typically start in late February or early March.

Orientation

Each year Fulbright New Zealand runs an orientation programme for US graduate students and scholars. As noted above, this will take place in Wellington 3-7 February 2014. **It is a requirement of your award that you attend.**

If you are not based in Wellington, Fulbright NZ will pay for your travel and accommodation for this event. Dependents named in your application are welcome to accompany you and participate in the February orientation (for specified activities only) at their own expense.

Orientation is a highlight for many grantees and will cover topics ranging from New Zealand history and politics, the Treaty of Waitangi, the peopling of Polynesia, and Maori language and protocols. An overnight stay at a nearby marae (Maori meeting place) is included.

Other events you are required to attend

Mid-year Programme: Late June (dates TBC). At this event you will deliver your mid-year report, participate in an Awards Ceremony and meet all of the New Zealand graduate students.

Thanksgiving/Final Reports: Late November (date TBC). You will deliver your final report and share a Thanksgiving meal before going your separate ways.

Note: *you need to ensure that your New Zealand supervisor is aware of your commitment to attend these events in case they conflict with any planned activities.*

Passports

If you do not already possess a valid US Passport you must apply for one immediately.

Applying for a visa

At least eight weeks prior to your departure from the US, you will need to apply for a visa to enter New Zealand. The earlier, the better. If you will enrol in an academic programme at a New Zealand university, then you should apply for a **student visa**. If you will conduct independent research, and not formally enrol at a university, then you should apply for a **work visa**.

The New Zealand Embassy in Washington deals with visa applications from people living on the eastern side of the US and the New Zealand Consulate-General in Los Angeles deals with the western side. You should check with your respective agency to find out about the processing time for visa applications so that you are sure to apply in plenty of time. Also, double check the documents that you need to provide with your application as these can change.

You will need to produce at least the following documentation to apply for your visa:

1. completed visa application
2. copy of your grant authorisation from Fulbright New Zealand
3. letter of admission/invitation from your New Zealand host institution, issued by the host themselves (obtain this as soon as possible)
4. passport
5. three passport-sized photographs

The addresses of the Embassy and Consulate are:

New Zealand Embassy
37 Observatory Circle NW
Washington, DC 20008
telephone: +1 202 328 4848

New Zealand Consulate-General
Suite 1150, 12400 Wilshire Boulevard
Los Angeles, CA 90025
telephone: +1 310 207 1605

When the visa is issued, **be sure to check the expiration date** to see that it is correct. Your visa should not expire before the end date of your Fulbright grant (as indicated on your Grant Authorisation document).

Travel bookings

Once you have decided exactly when you want to be in New Zealand, you should contact Fulbright New Zealand's designated travel agent to organise your flight bookings. You must make your bookings through our agent:

Mr. Rhys Bateman
FCM Travel Solutions
Wellington
New Zealand
fax: +64-3-357-0526
phone: +64-3-357-5473
email: rhys.bateman@fcmtravel.co.nz

If you are certain that you will return to the US within twelve months of your original departure date, you should request a round-trip ticket. Due to restrictions on how far in advance a return date may be booked, your initial booking will use a "dummy return date". You will later need to contact Rhys and change the return date to the date you will actually travel. Fulbright will pay for this date change if there is a fee.

If there is a chance that you will remain in New Zealand for more than 12 months, you should book a one-way ticket to New Zealand, and another one-way ticket when you are ready to return home.

Fulbright students often ask if they may travel to New Zealand via another country. This may be accommodated if approved by Fulbright New Zealand in advance. All extra costs incurred as a result of any side trips/stopovers must be met by you. If possible you should book your travel to Wellington for Orientation, at the same time you book your international travel. If you plan to do some travelling in New Zealand prior to orientation you may want to wait and organise your travel to Wellington once your other plans are sorted. You can discuss this with the travel agent who is familiar with Fulbright New Zealand's requirements. Fulbright requires you to use either a New Zealand or an American airline. Please refer to your Fulbright Terms and Conditions for other rules related to travel.

Smart Traveller Enrolment Program (STEP)

Once your travel bookings are confirmed, you are required to register with the State Department's Smart Traveller Enrolment Program. This is an online registration which can be accessed at <https://travelregistration.state.gov/ibrs/ui/>. When you have completed your registration you will receive a confirmation email. Please forward a copy of this email to Kara Wood, kara@fulbright.org.nz.

Smart Traveler iPhone App

There is also a Smart Traveler iPhone App available at <http://travel.state.gov/>

Shipping

Excess baggage

Excess baggage is charged at a flat rate for each additional piece and/or oversized piece. Please check with your carrier to find out about current fees. *This is recommended by current fellows as the cheapest and easiest option.*

Other options include:

Sea freight

Recent grantees have found this method of shipping to be expensive and unsatisfactory because of the time involved. For those of you who wish to use this method, it is best to deal with a firm of customs agents. This may be easily accomplished if you live near a major seaport, but if you live inland other methods are cheaper and more convenient. The shipping firms charge only by volume, which is good for heavy items, but not so good for clothes and the like. There is usually a minimum charge.

Standard mail

If you wish to mail books and other possessions via standard mail, the U.S. postal service will be able to advise you about weight limits and cost. Delivery takes about 8 - 12 weeks. It is possible to send books by special rate in a mailbag (which holds 60 pounds) as long as it is sealed at the point of departure and not opened until its arrival here. However, New Zealand Post does not accept mailbags full of books for return to the U.S. They accept surface rate parcels with an upper weight limit of 10kg. Please check with New Zealand Post for current fees.

Air cargo

Air cargo is almost as quick as excess baggage but generally more costly. Please check with your carrier for current fees.

What to bring to New Zealand

Most goods which you might require may be purchased in New Zealand, so pack light! New Zealand is a relatively casual country and formal clothing is not always needed. Most grantees report that they were able to get by with only one formal outfit, so don't bring too many. There are some things which are much more expensive here. A comment that we frequently hear from Americans is that they find books, clothing, shoes, over-the-counter medications and toiletries cost much more than at home, so we suggest that you bring adequate quantities of these with you.

Warm clothes

The New Zealand climate is changeable with distinct seasonal variations. Some parts of the country such as Auckland and Hamilton experience warmer temperatures than places in the south such as Dunedin and Christchurch. While the temperatures may not be as low in winter as many of you will have experienced in the US, central heating in homes is relatively uncommon and older homes are often inadequately insulated. People in New Zealand tend to wear more layers of clothes inside and not heat the house as much. You should bring lots of warm clothes such as *Polartec* clothing, warm sweaters/jerseys, winter outerwear and waterproof coats and jackets. Pack the "long underwear" for winter indoors!

Tramping gear

If you have an interest in the outdoors and are likely to go tramping in the wilderness, you should bring your heavy-duty outdoor wear and camping gear with you as it is more expensive here.

Electrical items

The electric plug size in NZ is different from the US but you can easily buy adaptors here. The NZ voltage is 220 volts which may/may not be a problem depending on what electrical items you want to bring. Small electrical items can be purchased very cheaply in NZ under the current

exchange rate conditions so you could buy some items here instead of bringing them over from the US.

Computers

Computers will need to be able to operate at 240 volts, otherwise you'll need a transformer. Those bringing a computer may also need to buy New Zealand telephone plugs and cords for internet connections. All these items are readily available here.

Cell Phones

Cell phones are used extensively in NZ. It is not necessary to bring your cell phone with you. SIM cards are different, so you generally cannot buy a New Zealand SIM card that will work in a phone purchased in the US. It is possible to have an account or to buy 'pre-pay' cards. There are three operators: Telecom NZ, Vodafone and 2Degrees. Vodafone operates the GSM system. Some grantees have noted that it can be more cost-effective to buy a mobile phone in New Zealand rather than purchasing one in the US that has international dialling.

Essentials items to bring

- your driver's license or international driver's license
- medical, dental and academic records
- birth certificates for yourself and any accompanying dependants, marriage certificate (if applicable)
- sleeping bag (if you plan to do any camping)

Useful items to bring

- A spare pair of glasses or contact lenses (along with saline solution) as these items are much more expensive in New Zealand
- adequate supplies of medication you take regularly
- your curriculum vitae
- copies of any professional articles published
- slides, photographs and maps of your home State for use in case of any talks or presentations you may be asked to give
- small souvenirs, e.g. craft items from the US which could be used as gifts for colleagues and friends
- your favourite recipes (cooking and sharing food is a great way for the people in New Zealand to learn about America and vice versa)
- if you are particularly wedded to a certain toothpaste, cosmetic, shampoo, snack bar, etc you may wish to stock up in case it is not available here.

Customs Regulations

You are entitled to bring the following baggage and effects into New Zealand free of duty, so long as they are not intended for any other person or for sale:

- wearing apparel and other personal effects which have been worn
- instruments and implements in connection with your profession which have been used for 12 months prior to embarkation
- household or other effects (including bicycles, cars, motorcycles, sporting equipment and household linen) which have been in use for 12 months prior to embarkation by you or your family

Importation of revolvers or automatic pistols is forbidden and a permit is required to import all other types of firearms. New goods, unless exempt from duty under the tariff, are liable under their appropriate items.

Money and Banking in New Zealand

New Zealand is largely a cashless society. EFTPOS (Electronic Funds Transfer at Point of Sale) is available nearly everywhere and the most commonly used form of payment for the purchase of most goods and services. Cheques are rarely used nowadays.

All transactions include the GST (Goods and Service Tax), so the price you see is the price you pay.

Opening a bank account

Fulbright strongly recommends that you open a New Zealand bank account online prior to your arrival. You can make telegraphic deposits in advance. These accounts can accept deposits, but the funds cannot be drawn upon until you arrive and verify your identity with a passport.

Recommended banks:

ANZ, www.anz.co.nz, is the bank used by Fulbright NZ so there may be a slight advantage to using them as your award stipend will be drawn on this bank. However, there are several banks to choose from including Westpac, Kiwibank, BNZ, and ASB and all are acceptable.

You will not need a checking account as nearly all expenses can be paid for with EFTPOS, telephone, or internet banking.

Traveller's cheques will be accepted by banks for deposit or cash. Some travellers are reporting increasing difficulty using traveller's cheques as cash when they travel. American Express denies this but practical experience suggests that an increasing number of merchants do not accept traveller's cheques.

Credit cards: Notify the customer services division of your credit card company to let them know you will be travelling and to flag your account. Some credit card companies will try to protect you by cutting off credit if charges start to appear from distant locations.

Giving out your bank account information: It is quite common in New Zealand for people you have a financial relationship with (like landlords) to request your bank account details. You should not be alarmed by this. However, you should NEVER give your PIN# to anyone.

Banks in New Zealand NEVER communicate via email. Unless you receive an email from a specific bank employee with whom you have an existing relationship, you should consider the email fraudulent.

Payment of stipends

You should plan to have some funds available to you during your first two weeks in New Zealand to give you time to set up a New Zealand bank account if you have not already done so. Once you let us know the details of your New Zealand bank account, we will arrange to pay your regular stipend directly into your account electronically.

First stipend payment

Prior to your arrival in New Zealand, your Fulbright Programme Manager will request that you provide the details of the bank account you have set up in New Zealand. Assuming you have provided the account details, your first stipend payment will be electronically deposited into your account on your award start date (generally 1 February). Initial payments will be calculated from 1 February, unless other arrangements have been approved by Fulbright New Zealand in advance. Your first payment will include two weeks stipend plus a \$1000 establishment and research allowance.

Subsequent stipend payments

Payments are made fortnightly beginning from 1 February. The fortnightly stipend for a grantee varies according to where in New Zealand you live because of the cost-of-living differential. Grantees living in Auckland, Wellington, Christchurch or Dunedin receive \$780 per fortnight. Grantees living elsewhere receive \$700 per fortnight. In June you will receive a \$1000 baggage, project and incidental allowance.

***Note:** Stipends are intended to cover the basic living costs of one Fulbright grantee only. If you are accompanied by a partner or other dependent, you should expect to use your own personal funds to cover the additional expenses associated with having that extra person(s) with you. You should also expect to use your own personal savings for travel, entertainment, and other extras.

Welcoming you at the airport

For those based in Wellington, a Fulbright New Zealand staff member will endeavour to meet you at the airport and take you to where you are staying.

For those in other centres, if you wish to be met at the airport, please indicate this on your Pre-departure Questionnaire and we will endeavour to arrange this. Unfortunately, we cannot guarantee to provide this service in all cases.

Please note: If you will be arriving outside of business hours or on a weekend or public holiday it is unlikely that we can arrange to have someone meet you at the airport, so you should plan to take a taxi or shuttle from the airport to your accommodation. You may also wish to take advantage of the airport meeting service provided by the International Students' Office if you will enrol in a New Zealand university.

Temporary accommodation

If you would like us to arrange temporary accommodation for you when you first arrive we can do so. In recent years members of the Fulbright New Zealand Alumni Association have generously offered to host incoming grantees in their homes for up to five nights free of charge, and most grantees take up this offer. You will receive more information about the homestay scheme from your Programme Manager.

You may also have the option of university-arranged temporary accommodation, or you may wish to consider staying at a backpackers, motel, hotel, etc. You would be responsible for any costs for accommodation organised by us on your behalf, whether it be provided by the university, motel, backpackers or other entity.

Grantees who will require **temporary accommodation in Wellington in early February** are advised to book their accommodation well in advance. The International Rugby Seven's Tournament is on

in Wellington at that time and accommodation will be extremely difficult to find. (This does not apply if you choose a homestay.)

Finding permanent accommodation

Students enrolling at New Zealand universities have the option of living in university accommodation (often called a “hostel”), however most Fulbright grantees opt to find a flat/apartment after they have arrived in New Zealand. Past grantees report that flatting is often cheaper (especially if you rent a room in a house shared with others), is more suitable for a graduate student’s lifestyle and increases the chance that you’ll live with New Zealanders. Grantees also report that a good flat can typically be found within a week or two, and that it’s relatively easy to get out of a flat if it turns out to be unsuitable.

Listing for flatmates can be found on www.trademe.co.nz and newspapers publish vacancy listings on Wednesdays and Saturdays. Universities also have offices that can help students find accommodation (on and off campus) and provide advice about your rights as a tenant.

If you Google “where to live in ‘*your preferred city*’” you can find discussion groups where people debate the good and bad points of various cities/neighbourhoods.

Previous grantees have reported that the following neighbourhoods/suburbs are best for grad students to live in. They based their opinions on a 1) reasonable cost of rent 2) availability of student flats/large student community and 3) easy access (walking or public transport) to university.

University of Auckland– Kingsland, Ponsonby, Grafton, Parnell, Eden Park

Victoria University of Wellington (Kelburn or Pipitea campus) – Aro Valley, Te Aro, Kelburn, Thorndon, CBD, Newtown (bus), Karori (bus); Island Bay if you’re based at the marine lab (VUCCEL); Hataitai, Roseneath, Kilbirnie if you’re based at NIWA.

University of Otago/Dunedin – Northeast Valley (avoid Castle Street and immediate vicinity as flats tend to be really rundown), Lower Opoho, CBD, St. Claire (bus)

University of Waikato/Hamilton – Hillcrest, Silverdale

Massey University/Palmerston North – Summerhill, Hokowhitu (bus); avoid Highbury

University of Canterbury/Christchurch – Riccarton, Upper Riccarton, Ilam

Travelling outside of New Zealand while on your Fulbright award

You are required to seek approval from Fulbright New Zealand whenever you intend to travel outside of New Zealand, and you must provide emergency contact information. If you leave for more than two weeks, your stipend may be pro-rated.

Travelling within New Zealand while on your Fulbright award

You are required to inform Fulbright New Zealand if you will travel outside of your host city for more than three days, and provide contact information at your destination.

Healthcare in New Zealand

Healthcare is a public good in New Zealand. Visitors who require medical attention must pay for their services when received, and then must file paperwork necessary to receive compensation from their own health insurance provider.

ACC

The Accident Compensation Corporation (ACC) administers New Zealand's accident compensation scheme, which provides personal injury cover for all New Zealand citizens, residents and temporary visitors to New Zealand. In return people do not have the right to sue for personal injury, other than for exemplary damages. New Zealand's accident compensation scheme provides 24-hour no-fault personal accident insurance cover. Visit www.acc.co.nz to learn more.

Health insurance

As a Fulbright student you are entitled to the US Department of State's basic health coverage. The DOS coverage has certain restrictions on it and you are asked to carefully read the booklet "Your ASPE Guide to Health Care Coverage" to make sure you understand the coverage it gives. The booklet is available on-line at <http://usdos.sevencorners.com/>.

An insurance ID card will be included in your "welcome pack", which will be provided by Fulbright New Zealand. You will need the ID card if you have to make a claim under the policy. The insurance claim form is available at <http://usdos.sevencorners.com>.

Those of you who enrol at New Zealand universities will likely be required to purchase an additional insurance policy. This is because international students in New Zealand are required to have very comprehensive insurance (including medical, personal liability, travel and personal effects insurance) and the DOS policy does not meet this standard. In fact, most US policies do not meet this standard, so we encourage you to contact us before you purchase any insurance plan in the US. Fulbright will cover the cost of insurance required by the university.

If you do not enrol at a New Zealand university, Fulbright New Zealand will enrol you in a comparable insurance policy known as VisitSafe Express Travel Insurance. Fulbright will cover the cost of this insurance.

Driving in New Zealand

It can be very beneficial to have access to a car during your stay, as many of New Zealand's great sights are only a short drive from the cities. You can lease a car, or buy one at an auction (see www.turners.co.nz or www.trademe.co.nz), used car lot or by private sale. However, if you are centrally located, it may be as cost efficient to do without a car and rent one for an occasional trip. This will depend on where you are living and how much travel you anticipate doing during your grant period.

New Zealand follows the British custom of driving on the left-hand side of the road, and Parking is scarce and/or expensive in the centre of most New Zealand cities. Manual transmissions are more common than automatic ones, and the average age of cars is more than 10 years.

If you have a current and valid driver licence or international driving permit (IDP), you can drive for a maximum of 12 continuous months from the date you arrive in New Zealand. If you have an international driver licence but want to drive for longer than one year in New Zealand, you must convert to a New Zealand driver licence. You should apply early to make sure you have a new licence before you have been in New Zealand for 12 months. Application forms are available from driver licensing agents or contact Land Transport NZ's Driver Licensing Call Centre on 0800 822 422.

Drivers with licenses issued in the US are not required to sit the practical part of the driving test (you only have to take a multiple-choice theory exam) if:

- your licence is current (or has expired within the past 12 months), and
- you've held that licence for more than two years.

Bring

a “safe driving” or “no claims” letter from your home insurance company if you are intending to purchase a car. This should entitle you to a substantial reduction in the insurance premium.

The price of petrol is currently about NZ\$2.20 per litre which is about as high as it has ever been in recent times.

US taxes

Your Fulbright award is not subject to taxation by the New Zealand government, and no tax will have been deducted from your stipend by the New Zealand government prior to it being given to you. However it is almost certain that you will be subject to taxation by the US government and it is your own responsibility to assess your US tax liabilities. Fulbright New Zealand cannot assist with enquiries about US taxation. Please see the US Internal Revenue Service website at www.irs.ustreas.gov or contact the US Internal Revenue Service Foreign Operations Division, Taxpayer Services, 1325 K Street NW, Washington DC 20225. IRS publication 520 “Scholarships and Fellowships” addresses tax issues related to your award which can be helpful when you prepare your federal income tax forms.

Fulbright New Zealand can assume no responsibility for tax liabilities arising from non-award income, from wherever derived.

US government student loan deferrals

The Institute for International Education is the appropriate organisation to officially sign your US student loan deferral form. You should, therefore, try and organise this before your departure as we are not able to sign it.

New Zealand vernacular

This short list of common New Zealand vernacular should help you as you come to the realisation that in fact Americans and New Zealanders speak two different languages!

New Zealand noun	American equivalent
bach (North Island usage) crib (South Island usage)	small vacation home
backpackers	youth hostel
bikkies	Biscuits/cookies or money, as in “big bikkies”
biscuit	cookie
boot	trunk (of a car)
bonnet	hood (of a car)
booze, plonk	alcohol
bludge, sponge	to borrow or enjoy hospitality and not pay back
bush	woods, forest
chilly bin	An ‘eski’, cooler

college	high school
crayfish	lobster
dairy	small, corner grocery store or convenience store
Down-under	NZ and Australia as seen from the northern hemisphere
hostel	university dormitory
hotel	pub/bar (in general usage)
hui	Maori word for meeting
jelly	Jell-O
kai	Maori word for food
kaumatua	Maori term for respected older man
kuia	Maori term for respected older woman
Kia ora	Maori term for hello/greeting
lolly	candy
lift	elevator
loo	toilet
marrow	large zucchini
Pakeha	a non-Maori New Zealander
paper	a university course (among other things)
petrol	gasoline
pudding	any kind of dessert
pumpkin	any kind of squash
rubber	eraser
supper	light, late-evening meal
tangata whenua	a Maori term meaning people of the land
tangi	Maori word for funeral
tea	dinner or supper, or morning/afternoon tea
tolls	a long distance telephone call
torch	flashlight
uni	university; campus
varsity	university; campus

New Zealand verbs	American equivalent
to be knackered	to be exhausted
to shout	to buy, to treat
to suss	to figure out
to swot	to study
to tramp	to hike, to walk in the woods

Useful websites

General Information about New Zealand

- * The Fulbright New Zealand website: www.fulbright.org.nz
- * New Zealand Embassy in Washington: www.nzembassy.com/home.cfm?c=31
- * Statistics New Zealand (facts and figures): www.stats.govt.nz
- * General news and information: www.stuff.co.nz
- * NZ-specific search engine: www.searchnz.co.nz (may only be accessible in NZ)
- * www.lonelyplanet.com
- * Tourism New Zealand: www.purenz.com
- * www.maori.org.nz

- * Maori dictionary online: www.maoridictionary.co.nz
- * NZ Education System: www.minedu.govt.nz

Media

The New Zealand Herald (Auckland): www.herald.co.nz
 The Dominion Post (Wellington): www.dominionpost.co.nz
 Independent Newspapers Limited: www.inl.co.nz
 The Press (Christchurch): www.press.co.nz
 The Otago Daily Times (Dunedin): www.odt.co.nz
 The New Zealand Listener: www.listener.co.nz

Information about regions (many websites include city maps)

- Auckland: www.akcity.govt.nz
- Wellington: www.wcc.govt.nz
- Palmerston North: www.pncc.govt.nz
- Christchurch: www.ccc.govt.nz
- Dunedin: www.cityofdunedin.com
- Hamilton: www.hcc.govt.nz

Universities

New Zealand has eight universities, which are proud of their role as the 'critic and conscience of society'.

Auckland University of Technology	www.aut.ac.nz
Lincoln University (near Christchurch)	www.lincoln.ac.nz
Massey University (3 campuses nationwide)	www.massey.ac.nz
University of Auckland	www.auckland.ac.nz
University of Canterbury (in Christchurch)	www.canterbury.ac.nz
University of Otago (in Dunedin)	www.otago.ac.nz
University of Waikato (in Hamilton)	www.waikato.ac.nz
Victoria University of Wellington	www.vuw.ac.nz

Polytechnics

Polytechnic institutes offer more vocational-based training, which may be taken to baccalaureate level and in some cases to Master's or PhD level.

Aoraki Polytechnic	www.aoraki.ac.nz
Bay of Plenty Polytechnic	www.boppoly.ac.nz
Christchurch Polytechnic	www.chchp.ac.nz
Eastern Institute of Technology	www.eit.ac.nz
Manukau Institute of Technology	www.manukau.ac.nz
Nelson Marlborough Institute of Technology	www.nmit.ac.nz
Northland Polytechnic	www.northland.ac.nz
Otago Polytechnic	www.tekotago.ac.nz
Southern Institute of Technology	www.sit.ac.nz
Tai Poutini Polytechnic	www.taipoutini.ac.nz
Tairāwhiti Polytechnic	www.tairāwhiti.ac.nz
Telford Rural Polytechnic	www.telford.ac.nz
The Open Polytechnic of New Zealand	www.topnz.ac.nz
UCOL (Palmerston North)	www.ucol.ac.nz
UNITEC Institute of Technology	www.unitec.ac.nz

Waiariki Institute of Technology	www.waiariki.ac.nz
Waikato Institute of Technology	www.wintec.ac.nz
Wellington Institute of Technology	www.weltec.ac.nz
Western Institute of Technology at Taranaki	www.witt.ac.nz
Whitireia Community Polytechnic	www.whitireia.ac.nz

Wānanga (Māori universities)

Wānanga are New Zealand's Māori institutes of higher learning, which offer degrees up to doctorate level.

Te Wānanga o Aotearoa	www.twoa.ac.nz
Te Wānanga o Raukawa	www.twor.ac.nz
Te Whare Wānanga o Awanuiarangi	www.wananga.ac.nz

There are some other private institutes of higher learning, some with a religious base.

Crown Research Institutes

Research is also conducted in New Zealand's Crown Research Institutes (CRIs), which are government-owned research facilities that are directed to research in areas of national interest such as agriculture, horticulture, marine science etc. The eight CRIs are:

AgResearch: life sciences and agriculture

Plant and Food Research: fruit, vegetable, crop and food products.

Institute of Environmental Science and Research: public health, environmental health and forensic science.

Scion: forest and wood products industries, biomaterials science, renewable materials.

Institute of Geological and Nuclear Sciences: earth systems science including geological hazards, tectonics, environment and land use.

Industrial Research Ltd: communication, information and electronic technologies, advanced materials and performance, intelligent devices and systems, biochemical technologies, energy technologies, complex measurement and analysis.

Landcare Research: biodiversity and ecosystem processes; greenhouse gases and carbon storage; sustainable business and government; biosecurity and pest management; rural land use; and urban environmental management.

National Institute of Water and Atmospheric Research: research on atmospheric, marine and freshwater systems and associated resources.

Links to the CRIs and other science-based organisations can be found on the website of the Ministry of Science and Innovation (MSI), specifically at <http://www.msi.govt.nz/get-connected/crown-research-institutes/>.

Research facilities

University Libraries

University libraries provide access to on-line catalogues through each university's website (available to staff and students).

It is possible to interloan material from other New Zealand libraries from your NZ host institution at no cost. You may also interloan internationally but may be charged a fee.

Regional Libraries

Each city has a central library (and suburban satellites). These libraries keep newspaper collections for that city, and some other NZ papers.

The Auckland City Library has a Special Collections Room with an extensive rare books collection and some important historic manuscripts and other archival material.

www.aucklandlibrary.co.nz/process.asp?pageurl=/explore/speccol/index.html

National Library

The National Library of New Zealand is located in Wellington on the corner of Aitken and Molesworth Streets, just along from Parliament Buildings. www.natlib.govt.nz.

The National Library also houses the **Alexander Turnbull Library**, a collection of rare books, photographs, manuscripts and other archival material. The on-line catalogue is at www.tapuhi.natlib.govt.nz.

Archives New Zealand

Archives New Zealand main office is located around the corner from the National Library, on the corner of Aitken and Mulgrave Streets. The holdings are related to every aspect of New Zealand life from 1840 to the present, and cover a variety of media. Their homepage is at www.archives.govt.nz

Hocken Library

The Hocken Library is part of the University of Otago collections but is held separately at the corner of Anzac Ave & Parry Street, Dunedin. The Library collects widely in relation to the history and culture of New Zealand, the Pacific and Antarctica, and has a special emphasis on the regions of Otago and Southland; and includes manuscripts and other archival material. URL: www.library.otago.ac.nz/libs/hocken

Most of these research facilities will copy archival material and post it to you at a nominal per page fee. Most of these libraries have galleries attached with changing exhibitions.

NZ Museums On-line

Search for museums and historic sites by name, region or collection. Includes web links where available, and the most obscure museums in the country. URL: www.nzmuseums.co.nz

National Register of Archives and Manuscripts

Search archival collections held in museums, local government bodies, libraries, historical societies, community repositories, and in-house business, educational, religious and sporting archives throughout New Zealand. URL: www.nram.org.nz

Royal Society of New Zealand

Gateway to New Zealand science and technology – links, publications, news etc. URL: www.rsnz.govt.nz

Dictionary of New Zealand Biography

Contains over 3,000 biographies of New Zealanders who have 'made their mark' on this country. Does not include people who are alive. URL: www.dnzb.govt.nz

New Zealand Culture

In preparation for your trip, you may want to learn more about New Zealand culture. Below are some ideas:

Selected reading

- ✦ *To the Is-land* by Janet Frame
- ✦ *History of New Zealand* by Michael King
- ✦ *The Bone People* by Keri Hulme
- ✦ *Potiki* by Patricia Grace
- ✦ *Culture Shock* by Peter Oettli
- ✦ Online Encyclopedia of New Zealand: Te Ara www.teara.govt.nz

Films

Whale Rider (2002)

On the east coast of New Zealand, the Whangara people believe their presence there dates back a thousand years or more to a single ancestor, Paikea, who escaped death when his canoe capsized by riding to shore on the back of a whale. From then on, Whangara chiefs, always the first-born, always male, have been considered Paikea's direct descendants. Pai, an 11-year-old girl in a patriarchal New Zealand tribe, believes she is destined to be the new chief. But her grandfather Koro is bound by tradition to pick a male leader. Pai loves Koro more than anyone in the world, but she must fight him and a thousand years of tradition to fulfil her destiny.

The World's Fastest Indian (2005)

After a lifetime of perfecting his classic Indian motorcycle, Burt sets off from New Zealand to clock his bike at the Bonneville Salt Flats. With all odds against him Burt puts his kiwi spirit to the test, braving the new world on a shoestring budget. Burt's quest culminates in an unlikely conclusion and remains legendary within the motorcycle community to this day.

Addresses for international student offices at New Zealand universities

University of Auckland: International Students' Office, University of Auckland, Private Bag 92019, Auckland, New Zealand 1142

Auckland University of Technology: International Student Support Service, Auckland University of Technology, Private Bag 92006, Auckland 1020

University of Waikato: International Office, The University of Waikato, Private Bag 3105, Hamilton, New Zealand 3240

Massey University: International Students' Office, Massey University, Private Bag 11222, Palmerston North, New Zealand 4442

Victoria University of Wellington: International Students' Office, Victoria University of Wellington, P O Box 600, Wellington, New Zealand 6140

University of Canterbury: International Office, University of Canterbury, Private Bag 4800, Christchurch, New Zealand 8140

Lincoln University: International Students' Office, Lincoln University, PO Box 94, Canterbury, New Zealand 7647

Comments from past grantees/Miscellaneous tips

- Most stores close at 5pm (except large grocery stores). Thursday night is typically the “late night” when many stores stay open until around 8 or 9pm.
- “You are going to have to pay for things at your university which are usually free in the US like gym membership, internet usage, printing documents, etc.”
- “The university registration process can be very bureaucratic and take a lot of time and running around.”
- Research the different universities in New Zealand and find out what their specialties are so that you can determine the best placement.
- “Be ready for a very casual academic environment. Programmes tend to be less structured and you have more autonomy than in the US.”
- If your project will require special equipment (eg. computer or camera equipment), please be advised you should consider your needs and compare prices before leaving the US. It may be to your advantage to bring the equipment/supplies you will need with you.
- “Consider taking a couple of weeks once you arrive to figure out where makes the most sense to live permanently.”
- Renting a room in an established flat will save on set-up costs since most of the flat will already be furnished.
- “I have found that a lot of flatting situations tend to share groceries here (more than in the US).”
- “Budget carefully. The stipend is sufficient to cover basic living costs during the grant period, but if you plan to travel, go out often, buy/run a car or stay on to complete a degree that takes longer than 10 months to complete, you should **expect to use your own personal savings.**”
- “For a Master’s degree in NZ there is no oral defence, only a written thesis. In many departments, the Master’s thesis is due in February instead of at the end of the academic year in November, so keep that in mind when budgeting and planning your time in NZ. A PhD generally takes 3-4 years and the oral defence may be up to 6 months after the thesis is submitted.”
- “Day-to-day costs are more expensive than in the states.”
- “Be open-minded, friendly and mindful of your American biases. Find a balance between school work and out-of-school activities. Get outside and play!”

- “Flatting is much easier and more relaxed here than in the United States. It’s worth waiting until you arrive and checking the Flatmates Wanted page on TradeMe.co.nz. The advertisements are usually for someone to move in with-in a week or 2 and most people won’t agree to a flatmate without meeting them, so it can be difficult to plan before arriving. However, it’s also easy to move out if you are unhappy with your choice for some reason.”
- All listed prices of goods include the GST (Goods and Service Tax), so the price you see is the actual price you pay.
- Tipping is not compulsory or expected in most cases.
- If your research will include interviewing people, it is a good idea to ask your adviser about “ethics committee approval” even before you arrive in New Zealand. The approval process can take a long time and if you don’t get onto it right away you may find yourself unable to start your research as soon as you’d planned.
- “Set up a bank account before you come, it’s easy to do and highly recommended.”
- “There really is no insulation in most New Zealand homes. I spent much of the winter in a flat that hovered around 4 degrees Celsius, meaning I could often see my breath indoors...electric blankets and hot water bottles are useful, as are layers of clothing. Good sun is key to help with the cold and damp.”
- “When looking for a flat, keep in mind how you’re going to get to school. Buses and public transportation are much more expensive here than in the US so keep that in mind.”
- “If I were to do it a second time I would have booked a room in a hostel for at least two weeks while I was looking for a flat (booking by the week is much cheaper than booking by the night).”
- “High costs of food and limited availability of specific food items was unexpected. Even prices of items that are abundant in New Zealand are much higher than in the US. I wish I had packed more cosmetics like lotion, bug spray, face wash and such from the US because they are more expensive here and don’t have all of the brands that you might necessarily want.”
- “Cost and availability of internet were surprising. There is not wireless access in a lot of locations and most places charge per MB instead of by time used. This means that using Skype, YouTube, uploading pictures, etc are all pretty expensive.”
- “While New Zealand has excellent healthcare which is either wholly covered by ACC (in the case of an accident) or heavily subsidised (for regular GP visits), the universal healthcare system does *not* cover dental visits, nor does it cover non-essential laboratory costs, such as Immigration-required X-rays for stays longer than one year. These expenses can be very, very pricey –with X-rays running up to more than NZ\$300.”
- “If you buy a car, don’t buy a European model. It is much more expensive to service and repair European models, which in turn makes them harder to sell on when you’re finished with them.”

- “When looking for a flat, try asking supervisors to email people in your department or related departments to ask about open rooms. That would probably help to find fellow students with a similar lifestyle. Many flats are hesitant to find randoms on Trademe, so getting someone through a department might be more appealing. Definitely don’t take a place sight unseen, especially if you have to sign an extended lease.”
- “Outdoor equipment is CRAZY EXPENSIVE here, so if you’re thinking you’ll want a sleeping bag for anything from couchsurfing to serious outdoors-ing, or any other gear for camping, tramping, climbing, etc., definitely bring it with you from the US. It would probably even be cheaper to ship some here than to buy it here (you can check prices online, but they’re often double US prices). One caveat is that many university clubs will have outdoor gear available for loan—you can often check out these lists on club websites.”
- “Cars are EXPENSIVE to keep and maintain, and petrol is very expensive. However, having a car is pretty much essential for exploring your city’s surroundings and the rest of the country. Many of the best things about NZ are off the beaten track, and having a car allows you to see those places. Renting cars is always possible, but owning one allows for much more spontaneity and ease of travel. That being said—cars here need to pass warrants of fitness every 6 months, and repairs are not cheap. So if you have the cash on hand to spend a bit extra on a car (i.e a \$5000 car instead of a \$2000 one), you will likely get back close to what you paid for it, and you should save some money on repairs along the way.”
- Advice from a grantee’s partner - “If you are planning to get a job while you are here, do your homework. Depending on your industry and experience, you may need certifications from accredited agencies here in NZ. ie construction, food and beverage, hospitality. If at all possible, set up interviews before you arrive. It may take several weeks to get a reply after you send in the actual application. Write a great cover letter, let your personality shine. It may be more important than your actual resume. Be patient.”
- “The hotel we stayed at during orientation only provided limited (30 minutes) wi-fi access, but free wireless is available outdoors in much of the Wellington CBD on the cbdfree network. See www.cbdfree.co.nz for details of where the service is available and how to connect. The cbdfree network is also accessible at the Wellington Central Library, which is open from 9:30am to 5:30pm weekdays.”